

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 2, first paragraph, please replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

Best Mode of Carrying Out the Invention

Our ~~Australian Patent Application No. 44470/99~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,567,382 discloses a technique in which all viable potential paths between source and destination can be used to improve network utilization and decrease overall latency. This technique is extended for all classes of traffic, particularly those which require the higher levels of QoS, because in the “all-practical-paths maximal flow” technique, individual packets will experience varying delays depending on the number of nodes they transit and the current delays in those nodes.

Page 2, second paragraph, please replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

The “all-practical-paths maximal flow” technique utilizes a network status mapping method under which the nodes are aware of the traffic conditions across the network. ~~Application Number 44470/99~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,567,382 describes an iterative hierarchal structure of interconnected nodes in which the available capacity of each node is reported to the nodes higher in the hierarchy, and which determines an overall availability for the group of nodes reporting to it. This iterative structure means that the overall amount of information exchanged for remote nodes is condensed, while more detailed information is exchanged about proximate nodes. In this manner, a node can determine the available capacity between itself and a destination node over various paths.